

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims

1. (Currently amended): A meter adapted to receive a test strip including a bladder, wherein said meter comprises a gimbaled bladder actuator, said gimbaled bladder actuator comprising:

a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element ~~and a portion in~~ wherein said holder ~~to provide~~ is attached to said meter at a gimbaled interface; and

~~an actuator actuating means~~ in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a said bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder by movement of said actuator when said test strip is positioned in said meter.

2. (Currently amended): The gimbaled bladder actuator according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said actuating means~~ actuator comprises a lever arm under the control of an automatic movement means.

3. (Original): The gimbaled bladder actuator according to claim 2, wherein said automatic movement means comprises a solenoid.

4. (Original): The gimbaled bladder actuator according to Claim 2, wherein said lever arm is attached to said movement means by a chassis.

5. (Currently amended): A meter adapted to receive a test strip including a bladder, wherein said meter comprises a gimbaled bladder actuator, said gimbaled bladder actuator comprising:

- (a) a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element wherein and a portion in said holder is attached to said meter at to provide a gimbaled interface; and
- (b) actuating means actuator in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a said bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder by movement of said actuator when said test strip is positioned in said meter, wherein said actuating means comprises:
- (i) a lever arm;
 - (ii) a chassis; and
 - (iii) a solenoid.

6. (Original): The gimbaled bladder actuator according to Claim 5, wherein said gimbaled compression pad has an actual area ranging from about 0.19 square inches to 0.21 square inches.

7. (Original): The gimbaled bladder actuator according to Claim 5, wherein said arm moves said gimbaled compression pad against a bladder in a manner sufficient to apply uniform pressure to said bladder.

8. (Original): The gimbaled bladder actuator according to Claim 5, wherein said gimbaled compression pad is capable of placing a compressive force on a bladder ranging from about 1 lb to about 1.5 lb.

9. (Currently amended): An automatic meter for reading a test strip including a bladder, said meter comprising:

a gimbaled bladder actuator, wherein said gimbaled bladder actuator comprises:

- (a) a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element and a

portion in wherein said holder to provide is attached to said meter at a gimbaled interface; and

(b) actuating means an actuator in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a said bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder by movement of said actuator when said test strip is positioned in said meter.

10. (Currently amended): The automatic meter according to Claim 9, wherein said actuating means actuator comprises a lever arm under the control of an automatic movement means.

11. (Original): The automatic meter according to Claim 10, wherein said automatic movement means is a solenoid movement means.

12. (Original): The automatic meter according to Claim 10, wherein said lever arm is attached to said movement means by a chassis.

13. (Original): The automatic meter according to Claim 9, wherein said gimbaled compression pad has an actual area ranging from about 0.19 square inches to 0.21 square inches.

14. (Original): The automatic meter according to Claim 9, wherein said arm moves said gimbaled compression pad against a bladder in a manner sufficient to apply uniform pressure to said bladder.

15. (Original): The automatic meter according to Claim 9, wherein said gimbaled compression pad is capable of placing a compressive force on a bladder ranging from about 1 lb to 1.5 lb.

16. (Currently amended): A method of moving sample fluid in a test strip that includes a bladder, said method comprising:

using a meter that moves a

a meter throat is in

- (a) positioning a bladder of said test strip in operative relationship with a gimbaled bladder actuator, wherein said gimbaled bladder actuator comprises:
- (i) a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element ~~and a portion in~~ wherein said holder is attached to said meter at to provide a gimbaled interface; and
 - (ii) actuating means in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a said bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder;
- (b) actuating said actuating means actuator in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder;
- (c) applying said sample fluid to a sample receiving region of said test strip; and
- (d) actuating said actuating means actuator in a manner sufficient to decompress said bladder and thereby move said sample fluid in said test strip;
whereby said sample fluid is moved in said test strip.

17. (Original): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said gimbaled bladder actuator is a component of a meter and said method further comprises introducing said test strip into said meter.

18. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said actuating means actuator comprises a lever arm under the control of an automatic movement means.

19. (Original): The method according to Claim 18, wherein said automatic movement means is a solenoid movement means.

20. (Original): The method according to Claim 18, wherein said lever arm is attached to said movement means by a chassis.